

**REMARKS**

The Examiner Advisory Action indicates that the Amendment filed February 18, 2005, would not be entered because the amendments raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or a search and because the amendments present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims. More particularly, the Examiner indicated that the two new issues requiring further consideration and search are the following: (1) the entire outer surface of the molded strip is exposed and (2) the limitations of newly added claim 66. The below signed attorney fails to comprehend the Examiner's rationale for not entering the amendment. More particularly, Applicant submits that there are no new issues requiring further consideration and search. The Examiner indicated that the first issue regards "the entire outer surface of the molded strip is exposed". This amounts to the limitation of each of new dependent claims 65 and 68, which depend respectively from claims 40 and 45. Applicant fails to understand why this limitation is deemed to present a new issue because claim 65 is identical to claim 63 except for the dependency of the claim. Claim 63 was previously entered and examined by the Examiner in Amendment D filed September 21, 2004, in response to the Office Action dated May 25, 2004. If claim 63 was entered and examined at that time, Applicant fails to see why claims 65 and 68 would present a new issue. Likewise, new claim 66 is identical to claim 58 except for the dependency thereof. Like claim 63, claim 58 was entered and examined by the Examiner in Amendment D filed on September 21, 2004. Thus, Applicant fails to comprehend why the limitations of claim 66 present a new issue for the same reasons as just discussed with regard to the limitations of claim 65.

With regard to the Examiner's position that the amendment presents additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims, Applicant also fails to understand the Examiner's position. More particularly, Applicant canceled claims 56, 57, 59, 60 and 61, all of which were finally rejected by the Examiner in the Office Action dated December 20, 2004. It is noted that while the Office Action Summary Sheet of said Office Action indicates a Non-Final

Action, the Examiner's comments in the conclusion of said Office Action indicate that the action is final. Thus, Applicant did cancel five finally rejected claims in Amendment E filed February 18, 2005 in response to the Office Action of December 20, 2004. In keeping with said number of cancellations, Applicant added in that amendment new claims 64-68, totaling five added claims. Thus, Applicant has canceled a corresponding number of finally rejected claims and fails to understand this rationale for not entering the proposed amendments.

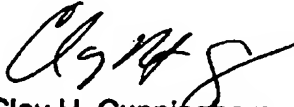
In the event that the Examiner deems that Applicant's position is incorrect with regard to the addition of the two new issues as expressed by the Examiner, Applicant in the alternate cancels claim 58, 63, 65, 66, and 68 or requests the Examiner to do so. Applicant has not forwarded a set of claims due to the uncertainty of what the Examiner will determine in this matter, but will gladly provide a copy of the claims promptly in accordance with the Examiner's determination.

If the Examiner still finds that Applicants arguments are not persuasive and/or that the cancellation of said claims in the alternate does not put the application in condition for allowance, the undersigned Attorney would welcome a telephone conference to resolve the matter promptly. Thus, Applicant requests entry and reconsideration of the amended claims as submitted February 18, 2005 in Amendment E, or in the alternative cancellation of the claims indicated above, or in the alternative a telephone conference with the Examiner to resolve the matter promptly.

In view of the forgoing, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims and most earnestly solicits the issuance of a Formal Notice of Allowability for the claims.

Respectfully submitted 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2005.

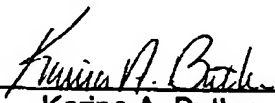
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**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE**

I hereby certify that this correspondence  
is being filed by facsimile to:  
Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
Examiner Jeanette E. Chapman at facsimile number 703-872-9306  
on this 18<sup>TH</sup> day of March, 2005.

  
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Karina A. Butler